



NIH: Substance Abuse, Child Welfare and Family Court

NCSACW Research Forum
Washington, DC
December 10-11, 2004

Jerry Flanzer Services Research
NIDA



NIH Child Research Interest & Rules

- Children to be included in all studies, unless not appropriate or child-at-risk
- Child Development crucial issue to Public Health
- 100's of studies on some aspect of child development, infant to adolescent neurobiology
- Etiology of childhood stress and trauma increasingly a concern throughout NIH



Child Safety First



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RFA OD 99-006

Research on Child Neglect

- Cheryl Boyce-NIMH
- Sally Flanzer- ACYF
- Margaret Feerick -NICHD
- Coryl Jones – NIDA
- Susan Martin - NIAAA



RFA- One Shot -AWARDED 1960

- 3,000,000 / 15 grants

NEW PA - RESEARCH ON CHILD NEGLECT

Release Date: February 28, 2001 PA NUMBER:
PA-01-060

- NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, NIH
National Institute of Child Health and Human
Development, NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, NIH
National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs,
DOJ National Institute of Mental Health, NIH National
Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH
Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and
Families Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, DOJ Office of
Special Education Programs, Department of Education



Career Development K Awards

- CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS:
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
RESEARCH Release Date: August 5,
1999 PA NUMBER: PA-99-133



Related Grants

Children and violence; Violence

- RESEARCH ON CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE RELEASE DATE: April 7, 2003 PA NUMBER: PAR-03-096
- SERVICES AND INTERVENTION RESEARCH WITH HOMELESS PERSONS HAVING ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE, OR MENTAL DISORDERS August 16, 2002 PA-02-150



Let's Be Creative

- Think beyond the “box” of child welfare
- Related concepts:
 - Victimology
 - Trauma
- Wrap around services in other sectors



NIH Major Players

- NIDA
 - NIAAA
 - NIMH
 - NICHD
-
- 50 current projects (child abuse, child neglect, child welfare)

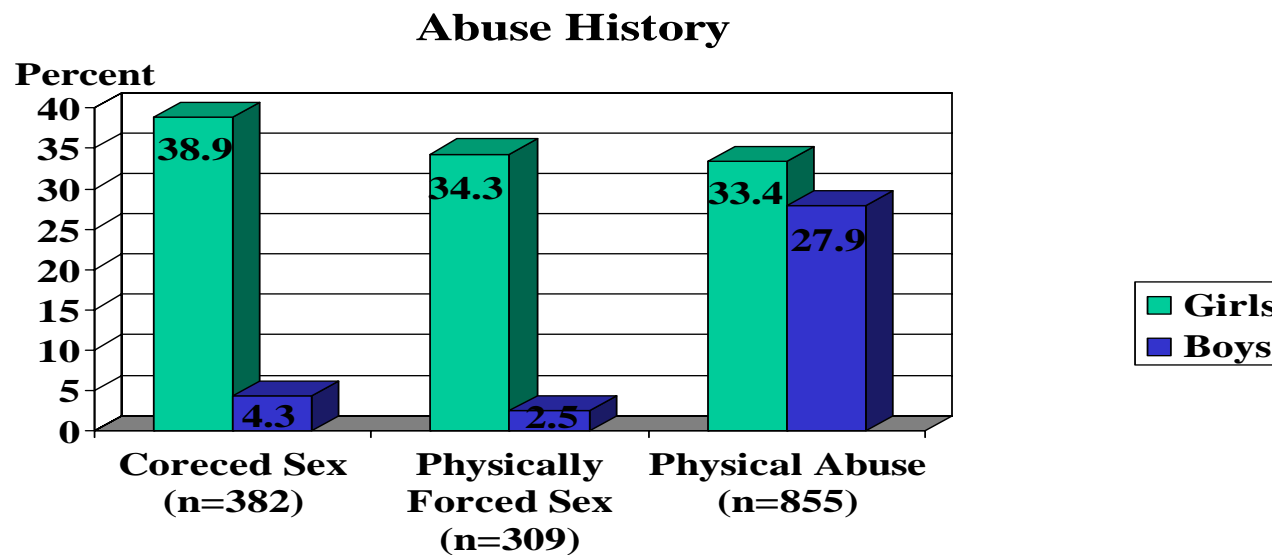


Themes

- Early Child Abuse/Neglect leading to vulnerabilities: later ATOD, MH, HIV
The Brain, Stress and Neurobiology
- Children with Parents of Substance Abuse Problems (punitive discipline, neglect...)
- Cross Sector Service Issues-(Effect of ASFA and Welfare Reform)

Early to Later: Abuse to Substance Abuse

Family Conflict and Abuse





Child Abuse on The Brain

■ The Brain

- Head Injuries
- Impair Executive Function
- Self-Medication
- Specific Brain Problems
- Poor processing/decision making



Children of parents with substance abuse problems

- Poorer developmental outcomes (physical, intellectual, social and emotional)
- At risk for of substance abuse themselves
- Children who are severely neglected – or who have suffered trauma or constant stress - particularly at an early age – show significant changes in the physiology of their brain. Some reversible with the returning maternal care.



Children of parents with substance abuse problems-2

- TIMING Placement Pressure varies according to the age of the children involved.:
 - the first eighteen months of life are informing the basis for a considerable amount of both cognitive learning and emotional development.
 - early bonding breaks and cost in later life



Addicted Parent-1

- Not available for adequate supervision and parenting
- Crack – increased chance of placing young infants in foster care
- *Most women in treatment for drug abuse are single parents of children under 18, who were abused in childhood themselves*



Addicted Parent-2

- . Addicted mothers show several deficits in their parenting behaviors...unengaged, uncommunicative with their infants, often use ***threatening and authoritarian disciplinary*** approaches...higher incidence of child abuse and neglect.
- . Concern for the well being of their children is frequently identified as a primary source of motivation for addicted women to seek treatment



X-Section

- ASFA – Permanency Planning
- Conflicting system values
- Case management issues between systems



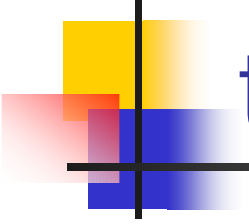
ASFA Timelines:negative affect on parents referred to/or in treatment

- Permanency hearing is intended to determine the child's plan, which could be: reunification, termination of parental rights; adoption. A parent who is newly in treatment may not yet be able to provide a plan about when he or she will be ready to resume parenting.
- Parents who are attempting to engage in treatment but who cannot find appropriate services are at a distinct disadvantage particularly in the early stages of permanency planning hearings.



COURT, CPS vs. AOD Practice Implications and realities

- For a cps worker, the client is both the child and the family, in ways that create the difficult choices. For an AOD worker, the world is somewhat simpler: clients are addicts and alcoholics, usually adults, and their status as a parent is generally irrelevant .
- CPS sees AOD treatment as a way to achieve child safety; AOD treatment assists a clients' functioning as a healthy adult, only one element is parenting.



Collaboration of three disparate treatment systems- 1

- Substance abusing parents are often treated as individuals in one system while their children are being treated in another without mechanisms to ensure communication, collaboration, and compliance across settings **Hence high tx drop out rate.**

Treatment for women which includes children superior approach! **More Studies Needed**



Collaboration of treatment systems 2

- The competing philosophies of abstinence and harm reduction: complete abstinence is an addict's only hope of recovery, versus a view that the ultimate impact on the family should determine how parents are treated by protective service systems follow AOD treatment. The abstinence view is stronger in child welfare agencies, while the harm reduction view prevails more often in treatment agencies. **Need studies on chronic disease management and child welfare!**



Whither Family Court



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Family drug courts

- 3 NIDA funded grants on family drug court have clear relationship to CPS activity as part of their design-
- Two are cost studies—
- One intervention study



NIDA's Projects

- 26 perinatal sites funded by NIDA in the past

Welfare reform (3 current grants)

- 1 Juvenile Drug courts (Henggeller)
- 0 Family Court



Montoya- Houston

- Chronic users have great barriers to employment (regardless of skill level)...As compared to others on welfare



LIDZ -Pennsylvania

- Large proportion of substance abusing women in treatment on welfare (TANF) found work – but on poverty line
- Success limited for most- dependent on Medicaid for health care, food stamps and child care subsidies



Morgenstern – New Jersey

- Intensive Case Management Improves Welfares' Rates of Entry and Retention in Substance Abuse Treatment
- Specialized Screening Approaches Can Substantially Increase the Identification of Substance Abuse Problems Among Welfare Recipients



Research Ideas

- NEW MODELS
 - Family Drug Courts
 - Dedicated Cross-Agency Teams
 - Effective Grandmothers
 - Confluence of Funds



Check out

[www.Theresearch
assistant.com](http://www.Theresearchassistant.com)



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